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DRAFT REPORT

Addendum

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PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Programme 2. Peace-keeping operations

1. At its 19th to 21st meetings, on 14 and 17 June 1996, the Committee considered programme 2, Peace-keeping operations, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

Discussion

2. Many delegations stressed the importance of the programme, although some believed that the priority given to peace-keeping should be without prejudice to the activities related to international cooperation for development. Several delegations expressed the view that a number of elements in the programme were not linked to existing mandates. Other delegations welcomed the determination of timely peace-keeping tasks, in particular the stress on the multidimensional nature of peace-keeping and the need to maintain a capacity for an expansion in demand for peace-keeping. Some delegations were concerned that a number of elements had been included in the programme for which no agreement had yet been reached. Other delegations expressed the view that references to a potential increase in the number of peace-keeping operations in the plan period was speculative and should be deleted. Some delegations underscored that all aspects of peace-keeping operations should adhere strictly to the principles and

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purposes of the Charter. They believed that peace-keeping operations should strictly observe the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in matters which were essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State. Some delegations stressed that the principle of consent of the parties was essential for the conduct of peace-keeping operations. Other delegations observed that the issues were often particularly complex and sometimes fell under the provisions of Chapter VII of the Charter; while they recognized the need to respect national sovereignty they could not agree that consent was essential in every instance. A number of delegations underscored the importance of defining precise and feasible objectives for peace-keeping operations. One delegation pointed out that the programme of work of peace-keeping should vary according to the nature of the particular programme, namely, substantive activities and servicing activities. One delegation stressed that the role of the General Assembly should be enhanced in all aspects of peace-keeping operations.

3. A number of delegations expressed concern about the use of seconded and loaned personnel and believed that its use impinged on the impartiality of those personnel. Accordingly, the practice should be discouraged. Other delegations welcomed the valuable work carried out by the loaned personnel. Some delegations emphasized the importance of recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible. Other delegations underlined the paramount importance of Article 101, paragraph 3 of the Charter in that regard. Other delegations stressed the need to ensure that sufficient resources were made available for the successful implementation of mandates and indicated that if peace-keeping was a priority, personnel in the Department should be fully funded in order to avoid increased reliance on personnel loaned by Member States. Several delegations noted with appreciation the work of the Lessons Learned Unit of the Department and spoke in favour of providing the Unit with a more regular and predictable source of financing. Some delegations stressed the importance of the congruence of objectives and mandates to prompt payment by Member States. Other delegations stressed the importance of expeditious reimbursement to troop-contributing countries. Some delegations stressed the importance of streamlining procedures for reimbursement to Member States in respect of troops and equipment. One delegation welcomed, in particular, the coverage of United Nations civilian police in the draft programme.

4. Many delegations called for the establishment of a uniform scale of death and disability compensation for United Nations personnel and expressed the view that the processing of these claims should be a priority under the programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

5. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of programme 2 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 2.1: Replace the paragraph with the following:

"2.1 Peace-keeping remains a dynamic and demanding activity of the United Nations. In spite of the recent decrease in the establishment of new operations and a decline in the number of peace-keepers deployed, it is essential for the United Nations to be able to respond to threats to international peace and security, including through mounting future peace-keeping operations in a range of different settings, when mandated. Every effort will be made to seek the early resolution of conflicts through pacific settlement of disputes by the parties concerned through negotiation, inquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means in accordance with the Charter. However, peace-keeping will be one of the key instruments available to the United Nations to resolve conflicts and to maintain international peace and security and will be used to implement peace agreements agreed by the parties and to prevent conflict situations from escalating while ways to resolve the conflict peacefully are being pursued. The use of preventive deployment, when mandated, could be a factor contributing to international peace and security";

(b) Paragraph 2.2: Replace the paragraph with the following:

"2.2 While the number of peace-keeping missions is likely to fluctuate in response to the international situation, one of the main purposes of the United Nations as derived from Article 1 of the Charter, the maintenance of international peace and security, will continue. Thus, the capacity of the United Nations to launch and support mandated peace-keeping operations in response to Security Council decisions will remain essential";

(c) Paragraph 2.3: In the second sentence, add the word "mandated" before "peace-keeping" and delete the words "that the Security Council or the General Assembly establish";

(d) Paragraph 2.4: Replace the words "resolutions and decisions, in particular those of the Security Council, that relate to specific operations" with the words "principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations", and, at the end of the paragraph, add "and on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations, the most recent of which is resolution 50/221 B of 7 June 1996. In respect of specific peace-keeping operations, legislative authority derives from specific decisions and resolutions of the Security Council related to particular operations";

(e) Paragraph 2.5 (a): In the second sentence, delete the word "multidimensional" and replace the word "is" with the words "may be", and, in the last sentence, replace the words "Even consent-based" with the word "Such" and replace the word "will" with the word "could";

(f) Paragraph 2.5 (b): Replace the subparagraph with the following:

"(b) Multiple tasks. In recent experience, some peace-keeping operations have been mandated to include different combinations of the following tasks: monitoring of cease-fires and buffer zones, protecting humanitarian convoys, disarming and demobilizing ex-combatants, reforming military establishments, demining, establishing police forces, organizing or monitoring elections, monitoring human rights, promoting electoral and judicial reform, promoting aspects of civil administration and coordinating economic rehabilitation. The United Nations must maintain a capacity to discharge effectively these tasks as mandated in accordance with the Charter";

(g) Paragraph 2.5 (c): Replace the subparagraph with the following:

"(c) Active collaboration. The United Nations reaffirms the important contribution that regional arrangements and agencies can make in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, including where appropriate, to peace-keeping. The strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements, within their respective mandates, scope and composition is, therefore, encouraged in order to enhance the capabilities of the international community in the maintenance of international peace and security. Furthermore, there is a need to enhance, as necessary, cooperation between peace-keeping operations and other related United Nations activities and to continue to explore ways and means of ensuring cooperation with other agencies of the United Nations system";

(h) Paragraph 2.6 (c) bis: Add a new subparagraph after paragraph 2.6 (c) reading:

"(d) The provision of Headquarters support for peace-keeping operations, including through coordination of the efforts of relevant United Nations departments"

and renumber the subsequent subparagraphs accordingly;

(i) Paragraph 2.6 (e) (former paragraph 2.6 (d)): Replace the subparagraph with the following:

"(e) The enhancement of contacts with Member States in order to encourage a wider group of Member States to develop, in cooperation with the Secretariat, arrangements for military, police and civilian personnel to participate in peace-keeping operations";

(j) New paragraph 2.6 (f) bis: [Add a new subparagraph after paragraph 2.6 (f) (former paragraph 2.6 (e)) reading:

"(g) The development, in the most transparent manner, of a rapidly deployable Headquarters team skilled in essential military and civilian headquarters functions]";

(k) Paragraph 2.7: Add the word "all" after the phrase "the Secretary-General on" and delete the word "military" before the word "implications";

(l) Paragraph 2.9: Delete the words "and various ad hoc intergovernmental committees on issues relating to peace-keeping";

(m) Paragraph 2.10: In the first sentence, delete the words ", particularly in complex settings; to create an integrated communications and information management system linking field missions and Headquarters units in order to enhance immediate communications and to ensure that information can be easily retrieved for purposes of lessons-learned studies and related analysis; and to provide a pallet of communications tools, including video teleconferencing, to enhance crisis decision-making", and, in the second sentence, delete the word "doctrinal";

(n) Paragraph 2.12: In the second sentence, add the words "as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates" after the words "regional organizations" and delete "(the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organization for African Unity, the Organization of American States, etc.)";

(o) Paragraph 2.13: At the beginning of the last sentence, add the words "of Operations" after the words "The Office" and replace the word "required", at the end of the sentence, with the word "appropriate";

(p) Paragraph 2.14: Add the word "technical" after the word "maintain";

(q) Paragraph 2.15: Replace the words "field mission activities undertaken under programme 1, Political affairs, programme 19, Humanitarian affairs, and other programmes and subprogrammes" with the words "other United Nations mandated activities in the field";

(r) Paragraph 2.17: Add the words "efficiency and" before the word "coordination", replace the words "review and verification of all claims relating to peace-keeping operations, including claims from troop-contributing countries" with the words "in the development and implementation of improved procurement practices" and add, at the end of the paragraph, the words "subject to and in accordance with the mandates of the relevant intergovernmental bodies. High priority will be given to the review and verification of all claims relating to peace-keeping operations, including claims from troop-contributing countries, and the possible revisions of current arrangements for death and disability benefits";

(s) Paragraph 2.18: Delete the words "medical support and training" in the first sentence, and delete the words "financial resources" in the last sentence;

(t) Paragraph 2.20: Add, at the end of the paragraph, a new sentence reading "All of the activities should be carried out bearing in mind the linguistic and cultural diversity of the countries concerned";

(u) Paragraph 2.21: Delete the words "the Organization's capacity to respond quickly to crises, and will further develop" in the first sentence, and delete the words "develop a central medical depot for the supply of medical equipment and consumables to all United Nations mission areas; establish, in cooperation with the United Nations Medical Service, a medical database to include all epidemiological information in order to improve prevention, management and control of diseases in peace-keeping mission areas; and develop a system of pre-deployment medical information and training, including new training programmes for the United Nations medical staff of troop contributing countries" in the second sentence.